

REMARKS

The Office Action dated November 28, 2005, and the Advisory Action dated February 7, 2006, have been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims and following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 1, 21, and 31 have been amended and claim 42 has been added to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-42 are currently pending and are respectfully submitted for consideration.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 1-14 and 21-41 were again rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,541,927 of Kristol et al. ("Kristol") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,490,584 of Barrett et al. ("Barrett"). The Office Action states that Kristol teaches all the elements of the claim except "that the server configured to push status information to a client without a request for the status information from the client, wherein the status information includes network information." The Office Action then relies upon Barrett as allegedly curing this deficiency in Kristol. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1, upon which claims 2-14 and 41 depend, is directed to a network hub in a communications network comprising a server. The server is configured to push status information to a client without a request for the status information from the client,

wherein the status information includes network information. The network information includes information about the communication network.

Claim 21, upon which claims 22-30 depend, is directed to a communication apparatus including a network information table storing network information from the network information receiver. The communication apparatus also includes a network information transmitter selectively push transmitting the network information in the network information table without a request for the network information, and wherein the network information is information about the communication network. The network information includes information about the communication network.

Claim 31, upon which claims 32-40 depend, is directed to a communication apparatus including a network information receiver, operably coupled with a communication network, for receiving network information. The communication apparatus also includes a network information table for storing network information from the network information receiver. The communication apparatus further includes a network operations detector detecting the networking information and producing operational information of an operational state of the network. The communication apparatus additionally includes a network information transmitter, for transmitting the operational information of an operational state of the network without a request for the operational information. The network information includes information about the communication network.

It is respectfully submitted that Kristol and Barrett, when viewed singly or combined, fail to disclose or suggest the elements of any of the presently pending claims. Therefore, the cited art fails to provide the critical and unobvious advantages discussed above.

Kristol is directed to a method of multicasting. Kristol generally discusses a method in which Source S sends a multi-cast packet to all destinations. Each destination that is first in the column sends its status to S, and each other destination in the column sends its destination to the first destination in the column. The first destination in the column ($E_{i,1}$) locally remulticasts if $E_{i,1}$ receives the multicast packet but a destination below it ($E_{i,j}$, $j \neq 1$) has not, and S remulticasts if a first destination in a column has not received the packet.

Barrett relates to user-centered push methods and systems. Barrett uses language like “pushing network information.” The way that Barrett defines “pushing network information” is, operationally, obtaining information from cyberspace, as illustrated in col. 1, ll. 20-27. In particular, Barrett’s “pushing network information” is defined operationally by commercial software applications like The Pointcast Network TM, Castanet Tuner TM, Netcaster TM, and Microsoft’s CDF channels. Accordingly, “pushing network information” as used by Barrett relates to pushing information on a network, as opposed to pushing information about a network.

Claim 1 recites the limitation “the server is configured to push status information to a client without a request for the status information from the client, wherein the status

information includes network information.” Kristol does not teach or suggest the limitation “the server is configured to push status information to a client without a request for the status information from the client, wherein the status information includes network information,” as the Office Action correctly notes.

Barrett does not remedy the deficiencies of Kristol. Barrett also does not teach or suggest the limitation “the server is configured to push status information to a client without a request for the status information from the client, wherein the status information includes network information.” In particular, although claim 1 relates to pushing network information, such as status of a network node, statistics relating to the operational state of a network, and the state of a local and remote devices and networks, Barrett deals with pushing information contained in a network. Additionally, it does not teach pushing information relating to the status of a network, it only discusses pushing information that may be of interest to a user based on a dynamic model that permits changing interest on the part of the user. In addition, Barrett does not indicate that Barrett’s server is a network hub in a communication network.

The Office Action responds that “one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking the references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references,” and cites *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981) and *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986). Applicants respectfully submit that the Office Action’s reliance on Keller and Merck is misplaced. Applicants’ response follows the pattern laid out by the Federal Circuit: identify the deficiencies of the

primary reference, and determine whether the secondary reference remedies those deficiencies. In re Rijckaert, 28 USPQ2d 1955, 1956-7 (Fed. Cir. 1993). Additionally, as the Federal Circuit has explained, Applicants are not required to show nonobviousness until a *prima facie* case for obviousness has been established. Rijckaert at 1957. Additionally, Applicants have not addressed a reference in isolation, like the applicant in Merck, nor have Applicants provided an affidavit regarding a solitary reference like the applicant in Keller. Accordingly, Applicants' argument complies with the law as set forth by the Federal Circuit.

Additionally, the Office Action states that "network hub" is not given patentable weight because the recitation occurs in the preamble. Applicants respectfully traverse this position. Applicants respectfully submit that "if the claim preamble, when read in the context of the entire claim recites limitations of the claim, or, if the claim preamble is 'necessary to give life meaning and vitality' to the claim, then the claim preamble should be construed as if in the balance of the claim." Pitney Bowes, Inc. v. Hewlett-Packard Co., 182 F.3d 1298, 1305, 51 USPQ2d 1161, 1165-6 (Fed. Cir. 1999). Applicants respectfully note that the body of claim 6 uses the term "the hub" making antecedent basis to the "network hub" in the preamble of claim 1, thereby indicating that "network hub" is a limitation of the claim, and that it is necessary to give meaning to the term "the hub" in claim 6. Accordingly, "network hub" should be considered as a limitation. Because the combination of Kristol and Barrett do not teach the limitation "network hub" the rejection should be withdrawn.

The Office Action, at page 9, argues that “it would have been obvious of one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the teaching of Barrett ... with the network hub of Kristol.” Applicants respectfully traverse this assertion. The word “hub” does not appear in Kristol. And Kristol presents a method of multicasting which is designed to be carried out at “a source host,” not a network hub, as explained by Kristol at col. 2, ll. 23-29. Accordingly, the combination of Kristol and Barrett do not teach or suggest the claimed “network hub.”

Furthermore, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have combined Kristol and Barrett. Kristol and Barrett take diametrically opposing approaches to communicating information. Kristol multicasts a packet and awaits status responses. Barrett observes requests for information, and obtains other unsolicited information, as illustrated in Col. 5, ll. 24-31 of Barrett. In contrast, Kristol is uninterested in unsolicited information. Barrett models the user as having a dynamic interest in information. Kristol’s source S has a static interest in status information. Barrett increases traffic by pushing unsolicited information to the client. Kristol’s method is designed to eliminate unnecessary communication and traffic, as illustrated at Col. 2, ll. 12-19. Thus, the asserted combination of Kristol and Barrett would change the principle of operation of Kristol, or render Kristol inoperable for its intended purpose. See MPEP 2143.01.

Accordingly, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have found teaching, motivation, or suggestion to combine Kristol and Barrett. And, even if one somehow combined Kristol and Barrett, **the combination** would not include the limitation, “the

server is configured to push status information to a client without a request for the status information from the client, wherein the status information includes network information,” as explained above. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Kristol and Barrett, when taken singly **or in combination** do not teach all the elements of claim 1.

Claim 21 recites “a network information transmitter selectively push transmitting the network information in the network information table without a request for the network information.” The cited references do not teach or suggest at least this element of claim 21.

Kristol and Barrett do not teach or suggest “a network information transmitter selectively push transmitting the network information in the network information table without a request for the network information.” Kristol does not teach this element, as the Office Action implicitly acknowledges. Barrett does not remedy the deficiencies of Kristol. In particular, as with claim 1, in the context of claim 21, the term “network information” relates to information about a network, not information found in a network. Accordingly, Barrett does not teach or suggest “a network information transmitter selectively push transmitting the network information in the network information table without a request for the network information.” This is because Barrett does not teach or suggest the claimed “network information” or a component designed to selectively push or transmit the claimed “network information.” Please recall the arguments above regarding the impropriety of combining Kristol and Barrett, as those arguments apply

with equal force to this claim. Accordingly, Kristol and Barrett, when viewed singly or in combination do not teach or suggest all the elements of claim 21.

The Office Action fails to respond to Applicants arguments regarding the patentability of claim 21 and those claims that depend from it. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 21 and those claims that depend from it are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 31 recites, “a network information transmitter, for transmitting the operational information of an operational state of the network without a request for the operational information.” The Office Action implicitly acknowledges that Kristol does not teach or suggest this element. Barrett does not remedy the deficiencies of Kristol. In particular, Barrett does not teach or suggest the claimed “operational information of an operational state of the network” nor transmitting that information without a request for the operational information. Additionally, the arguments described above regarding the impropriety of the combination of Kristol and Barrett should be applied here. Accordingly, Kristol and Barrett, whether viewed singly or in combination do not teach all of the elements of claim 31.

The Office Action fails to respond to Applicants arguments regarding the patentability of claim 31 and those claims that depend from it. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 31 and those claims that depend from it are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 15-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Kristol and Barrett in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,651,006 of Fujino et al. (“Fujino”). The Office Action takes the position that Kristol and Barrett teach all of the elements of the claims except that the information is a management information base (MIB) statistic and several other elements relating to an MIB engine. The Office Action cites Fujino as allegedly curing this deficiency in Kristol and Barrett. This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Kristol and Barret are discussed above. Fujino is directed to a hierarchical network management system. Fujino generally describes that information can be held in an MIB format. Fujino relates the use of MIB format data to large-scale communications networks.

It is respectfully submitted that Kristol, Barrett, and Fujino do not teach all the elements of any of the present pending claims, and accordingly do not provide the critical and unobvious advantages discussed above.

Claims 15-20 depend from independent claim 1. The arguments as applied to claim 1 above, apply with equal force here, and thus are incorporated by reference. Additionally, Fujino does not remedy the above-described deficiencies of Kristol and Barrett. In particular, Fujino does not teach or suggest the limitation “the server is configured to push status information to a client without a request for the status information from the client, wherein the status information includes network

information.” Indeed, Fujino uses the simple network management protocol (SNMP) described in Fujino for communication among managers and sub-managers.

Thus, Barrett, Kristol, and Fujino whether taken singly or in any combination, do not teach all the elements of any of the presently pending claims. Moreover, one of ordinary skill in the art would not find teaching, motivation, or suggestion to combine Barrett, Kristol, and Fujino.

Additionally, to the extent that it was not previously considered, network information has been defined in the claims as “information about the communication network.” Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that this definition rebuts the previous position of the Office Action that information contained on a network is network information.

Dependent Claims

Claims 2-20 and 41 depend from claim 1, and therefore incorporate all of the limitations and are patentable for at least the reasons claim 1 is patentable. Claims 22-30 depend from claim 21, and therefore incorporate all of the limitations and are patentable for at least the reasons claim 21 is patentable. Additionally, with particular regard to claim 41, it is respectfully noted that the Office Action mischaracterizes the claim, and therefore fails to assert that the additional limitation “wherein the status information comprises at least one of hub status information and server status information” is taught by the combination of references. It is unsurprising that the limitation “wherein the status

information comprises at least one of hub status information and server status information” is not taught by the combination of references, because, as explained above, the information pushed by Barrett is not “network information” as the term is used in the claims. Accordingly, the combination of Barrett and Kristol do not disclose or suggest “wherein the status information comprises at least one of hub status information and server status information.” Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of cited references fails to disclose or suggest all of the elements of any of the dependent claims.

New Claim

New claim 42 is supported by the specification as originally filed, including originally filed claim 1. Accordingly, no new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that claim 42 is patentable over the cited references, because it contains elements that the references taken singly or in combination neither disclose nor suggest.

Conclusion

For the reasons explained above, it is respectfully submitted that each of claims 1-42 recites subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested in the prior art of record. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that all of claims 1-42 be allowed, and this application be passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,


Peter Flanagan
Registration No. 58,178

Customer No. 32294
SQUIRE, SANDERS & DEMPSEY LLP
14TH Floor
8000 Towers Crescent Drive
Tysons Corner, Virginia 22182-2700
Telephone: 703-720-7800
Fax: 703-720-7802
PCF:kmp

Enclosures: Request for Continued Examination (RCE)
Check No. 014118